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SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
SENATE NO. 2
DATE 1-19-07
BILL NO. SB 24

Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee
2007 Montana Legislature
Helena, MT
January 17, 2007

Dear Senators,

I am writing in regards to Senate Bill #24 (Dan Weinberg) to tell you that I strongly oppose this bill.

Although I admire Sen. Weinberg's concern for clean water in Montana, the way SB #24 is written causes Montanans economic harm and is unfair to innocent citizens.

This bill goes above and beyond reason. The time table is especially unreasonable. In this bill, we are not just talking about jet skis. We are not talking just small, inexpensive equipment, or even **OLD** equipment in many cases. Some of this equipment we are talking about was quite expensive and was purchased fairly recently. Because of the current nature of the Marine industry, we are talking about entire boat, motor and trailer packages.

Under SB #24, any citizens of Montana who own boats with these engines will be forced to get rid of them, and they will be **FORCED TO DO SO IN A STATE OTHER THAN MONTANA**. Common sense dictates the citizens will get rid of these items and since nobody can buy or sell them in Montana, they only have one option:

They must go out of state to trade up to new equipment because it will be illegal to get rid of their equipment in our state.

Another unanswered question concerning SB-24 is:

How are the thousands of out of state tourists treated under this law?

Can they bring and use their illegal equipment, when they come to Montana, or does it mean they are forced to stay away?

There is something fundamentally wrong if a law is passed that **FORCES** Montana's citizens to go to another state to purchase anything, but especially big ticket items.

I would hope common sense will prevail and this bill be killed by your committee.

Sincerely,
Terry McArdle
Townsend Marine